

MI Urban & Community Forestry Council
- Minutes of -
Thursday, October 9th, 2008
Arboriculture Society of Michigan office – East Lansing

Members present (voting):

Nancy Carpenter, Bob Bricault, Jeff Dunmire, Vic Foerster, Bert Cregg, Tim Kennedy, Rebecca Salminen-Witt

Members present (non-voting):

Kevin Sayers, Ada Takacs

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 9:15 am by Kevin Sayers.

Approval of Agenda:

Vic F. moved to accept the agenda; seconded by Rebecca S.

Approval of Minutes:

Rebecca S. moved to accept the previous meeting minutes; seconded by Bob B.

Public Comment:

None

Business:

Council membership and leadership rotation:

- Self intro. of Tim Kennedy as new utility representative for Great Lakes Energy.
- Kevin announced the following positions expire at end of this meeting
 - Municipal (>30K)
 - Municipal (<30K)
 - At large
 - Nonprofit
 - Planner
- Jeff D. (Municipal >30K) renews (2011)
- Rebecca S. (nonprofit) renews (2011)
- Kevin announced that new Chair and Vice-Chair positions needed to be filled. Current Chair (Vic F.) was term-limited and since Vice-Chair position was vacant so both would be new.
- Rebecca S. - Chair elect (1yr & 1 renewal)
- Bert C. Vice-Chair elect (1yr. & rotate up)
- Approved unanimously

Action Item(s):

1. Kevin to contact expiring term members and solicit replacements as needed..

Budget update:

- Kevin discussed the end of fiscal year UCF budget with group
- Due to several grants not being completed at all, or only for partial payment, there was significant carryover funds this year
- Carryover funds will be reissued with this years program grants which must be completed by 9/09.
- No federal advise on FY09 yet. Expect by December.
- Federal budget acting on continuation so don't expect much change from last year.
- Bob B. wondered about status of funding for Conservation District foresters from DNR? Kevin will check into it.

Action Item(s):

1. Kevin will keep group updated on FY09 budget status
2. Kevin will check into status of DNR funds for conservation district foresters for FY08 & 09

Community Canopy Newsletter:

- Ada T. provided copies of DRAFT Fall 08 edition for review/comment
- Group commented that new online format was better than mailing format since we will not be mailing.
- Comments – add info. on Famous/Historic tree survey, DTE Energy line clearance article, more photos, MSU Landscape alert links and urban forestry award info.
- Changes will be made and final version to be posted on www.mi.gov/dnrucf

Action Item(s):

1. Kevin/Ada will make edits updates and post to website and send announcement.

DNR UCF Program display & brochure:

- Kevin announced that approval was granted for development using DNR in-house staff and UCF program funds
- Tina Stojakovich developed DRAFT version of brochure to share for group edit/mark-up.
- Display being developed by Earl Wolfe with photos by David Kenyon and will be a pull-up screen type display costing approx. \$500 w/case.

Action Item(s):

1. Kevin will share drafts and final with group

UCF 5 year Strategic Plan:

- Kevin discussed current status of program strategic plan, which expires at end of 2009.
- Suggestion made that ad hoc strategic planning committee should be formed to begin updating plan for 2010-2015.

Action Item(s):

1. Kevin/Ada will make edits updates and post to website and send announcement.

Update on MI Bacterial Leaf Scorch survey:

- Kevin discussed survey process from USFS and MSU with group.
- DNR UCF/Forest Health, and MSU created a targeted announcement to staff (urban, service foresters, Extension offices) to request collection of leaf samples statewide
- MSU provided postage paid envelopes and instructions
- Poor response as of September
- Waiting to hear from Gerry Adams at MSU on season survey results

Action Item(s):

1. Kevin will update group with info. from Gerry Adams as received. (post to website)

Annual State of UCF in MI report:

- Tabled until end of year reporting is complete

Action Item(s):

1. Kevin will share with group by January

FY 08 close-out and reporting to USFS

- Kevin shared preliminary program accomplishment statistics with group.
- Financial subgrant info. and final write-up to be complete/submitted to USFS by October 16th
- Kevin explained that some of the decreases in assistance numbers seen this year are attributed to not having Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) grants available (no funding).
- Other reasons include adding new communities to list which increased potential population to be assisted but reduced relative % assisted when comparing "Managing" to "Developing" from 2007 to 2008.

Action Item(s):

1. Kevin to share final report with group by Nov.

USFS Competitive Grant Process:

- Kevin provided group with copies of two (2) proposals MI DNR UCF will be submitting or partnering on for FY 08 grants
- Both proposals involve Urban Tree Canopy (UTC) analysis.
- One is multi-state with OHDNR and involves web-based results and education component with Eastern Michigan Univ.
- One is MI specific and involves significant Tree planting component
- DNR UCF partnering on multi-state urban wood utilization proposal
- Deadline for submission is 10/15.
- Awards anticipated in January, 2009
- Vic F. shared copies of UTC analysis from project recently completed by Grand Valley State U for City of Grand Rapids. Group reviewed with much interest

Action Item(s):

1. Kevin will keep group updated on status

2009 Community Forestry Grant awards:

- Kevin shared list of approved awards for 2009 grants. (77 applications received)
- 50 award totaling \$215K
- Approx \$100K management/planning, \$100K tree planting and \$15K education/training
- Anticipated announcement is mid-October
- bled until end of year reporting is complete

Action Item(s): - N/A

2009 Arbor Day mini grants:

- Kevin announced that the 2009 Arbor Day mini grant applications are available and online on program website
- Deadline for receiving applications is 11/13
- 50 random awards of \$200 (\$10K total)

Action Item(s):

N/A

2009 DTE Energy Found. Tree Planting grants:

- Kevin discussed the upcoming announcement of the 2009 DTE Energy Found. Grants
- Application materials being revised currently
- Applications available online by mid-Nov.
- Deadline to receive will be end of year
- Eligibility to those within DTE service territory.
- Have not determined avail. funds yet but likely to be \$60K total

Action Item(s):

N/A

MUCFC Urban Forestry Award:

- Kevin updated group on status of UCF award.
- Council previously approved partnering with other organization such as the Arboriculture Society of MI (ASM) to award/recognize governmental excellence in urban forestry
- ASM renewing their annual awards program and did not have category for governments.
- Nominations solicited throughout spring/summer.
- 1st time award for Governmental Excellence in Urban Forestry awarded on behalf of MUCFC, in partnership with ASM at recent conference.
- Award recipient was City of Marquette

Action Item(s):

1. *Kevin to post pictures on council website.*

Tree City/Campus USA

- Kevin reminded group that 2008 Tree City USA applications due by end of year (will send reminder to communities).

- Tree Campus USA is new initiative from Arbor Day Foundation, sponsored by Toyota and administered by each state's UCF coordinator
- Program info. avail. at: www.arborday.org
- Kickoff event will be at Univ. of Michigan (UM) in November.
- MI applications submitted to date include UM and Western MI Univ.
- No application from Mich State Univ.

Action Item(s):

1. *Bert C. will find out why MSU has not submitted TCampus application.*
2. *Kevin will update group on kick-off TCampus presentation at UM*
3. *Kevin will send TCUSA reminder*

MI Famous/Historic Trees survey:

- Michigan Forest Assoc. in cooperation with Michigan Forestry and Park Assoc. and DNR is seeking nominations
- Kevin shared press release outlining criteria and contacts
- Nominations to be reviewed by state committee over the winter for consideration to be added to updated publication.
- Council members invited to help
- Goal to have publication updated by 2010

Action Item(s):

1. *Kevin to share summary of nominations with group this winter/spring.*

MSU / Dr. Robert Schutzki project ideas:

- Kevin shared discussion with Dr. Bob Schutzki at MSU on possibility of creating new DNR/MSU tree planting diagram and associated fact sheets.
- Other project possibility is to review current MI community ordinances and develop plans for workshops to address current best practices through ordinances for MI communities.

Action Item(s):

1. *Bert C. to talk to Dr. Schutzki re: specifics of revising tree planting detail.*
2. *Kevin to share updates w/ group as needed.*

Misc. Updates:

- Status update of EAB in MI and nationally.
- USFS Tree Owners Manual publication delayed in printing. Anticipated in electronic version within a month.
- ISA Municipal Specialist scholarships still available. Contact Nancy Carpenter at ASM.
- Jeff D. updated group on class action lawsuit in Warren involving trees and sewers. Lawsuit is moving forward with unknown implications to local taxpayers, forestry program or definite timeline.

Next meeting:

West Michigan Tree Service - Grand Rapids
March 11th or 18th - tba

Adjourned:

Meeting adjourned at 11:55 am

Respectfully submitted:

Kevin Sayers